

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05271 050757Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3720
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5271

FOL SENT USDA/FAS/WASHDC 03 JULY 1978.
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QTE
R 030626Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO USDA/FAS/WASHDC

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1. TOFAS 129 FROM AGATTACHE FOR FRUIT AND VEG. DIV., FCA/FAS/W.
 2. MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED JOINTLY TODAY THAT GOA HAD DECIDED TO RETAIN CURRENT TEMPORARY 65 PERCENT TARIFF DUTY ON IMPORTS OF ORANGE JUICE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30. THE TEMPORARY DUTY WAS TO BE IN EFFECT UNTIL JUNE 30, PENDING CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT BY THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (IAC).
 3. THE GOA EXTENDED THE TEMPORARY DUTY TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER FULLY THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE IAC CONCERNING FUTURE LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO THE ENTIRE
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AUSTRALIAN CITRUS INDUSTRY. THE IAC SUBMITTED ITS FINAL REPORT TO GOA ON JUNE 9. IN ITS INTERIM REPORT THE IAC RECOMMENDED THAT THE DUTY ON ORANGE JUICE BE REDUCTED TO 20 PERCENT AD VAL., BUT THIS WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE INDUSTRY AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOA. FINAL IAC RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN REVISED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. THE GOA REFERRED THE QUESTION OF LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO IAC IN JULY 1976 AFTER TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY HAD FOUND URGENT ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY AGAINST IMPORTS OF ORANGE JUICE. A SYSTEM OF TARIFF QUOTAS WAS IMPOSED IN 1976/77, AND THE 65 PERCENT AD VALORUM DUTY IMPLEMENTED IN 1977/78 FOLLOWING AN INTERIM REPORT BY THE IAC IN WHICH IT RECOMMENDED A TEMPORARY DUTY OF 45 PERCENT. IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT THE GOA WILL MAKE A DECISION ON DUTY RATES FOR CITRUS JUICES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, ULD PROBABLY WILL INCLUDE DUTIES ON JUICES OTHER THAN ORANGE, WHICH ARE PRESENTLY IMPORTED DUTY-FREE. IMPORTS OF MANDARIN JUICE WILL BE MOST AFFECTED, AS IMPORTS OF GRAPEFRUIT AND LEMON JUICE ARE FAIRLY SMALL. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE NEW DUTY MAY BE UNSWEETENED LIME JUICE, WHICH IS NOT PRODUCED IN AUSTRALIA AND IS MAINLY SUPPLIED BY LDC'S IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA. UNQTE.
ALSTON

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